

**National Notable Achievement Awards
2018 Nomination Form**

Select the award below for which you are nominating an individual or team. Use a separate nomination form for each award. Descriptions of awards, eligibility requirements, and evaluation criteria are in the *National Notable Achievement Award 2018 Description and Criteria*.

Brownfields

- ☐ Brownfields Team Excellence Award
- ☐ Land Revitalization Team Award

Communications, Partnerships and Analysis

- ☐ Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award
- ☐ Outstanding Re-Powering Individual or Team Effort
- ☐ OLEM Community Engagement Award
- ☐ Award for Excellence in Using Data or Evidence to Improve our Understanding of OLEM Program Effectiveness or Impact
- ☐ Outstanding Environmental Justice Achievement Award

Emergency Management

- ☐ Oil
- ☐ Homeland Security
- ☐ On-Scene Coordinator

Federal Facilities Response

- ☐ Federal Facilities Response Outstanding Achievement Award (Individual)
- ☐ Federal Facilities Response Outstanding Achievement Award (Team)

RCRA and TSCA PCB Permits and Cleanups

- ☐ Outstanding Use of Innovative Approaches to Achieve Permitting or Corrective Action Program Goals
- ☐ Outstanding Use of Redevelopment Potentials or Leveraging of External Resources to Accelerate Cleanups
- ☐ Outstanding Regional Efforts to Support State or Tribal RCRA Programs
- ☐ Outstanding Use of Innovative Approaches to Advance the PCB Disposal and Cleanup Program

RCRA Sustainable Materials Management Program

- ☐ Individual or Team

RCRA Waste Management

- ☐ Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
- ☐ EPA Methods Development

Regional Science

- ☐ Individual or Team

Superfund

- ☒ Remedial Project Manager of the Year (Individual)
- ☐ Site Assessment Manager of the Year (Individual)
- ☐ Community Involvement Coordinator of the Year (Individual)
- ☐ Superfund Individual of the Year
- ☐ Superfund Team of the Year
- ☐ Superfund Advancing Innovations and Sustainability in Cleanup Practice (Individual or Team)

Superfund Site Remediation Enforcement Awards

- ☐ Enforcement Team Award
- ☐ Financial Management Team Award
- ☐ Legal Enforcer Award
- ☐ Technical Enforcer Award

Underground Storage Tanks

- ☐ Outstanding Prevention Award
- ☐ Outstanding Cleanup/ Revitalization Award

Nomination for a National Notable Achievement Award

Nominating Official who is able to answer questions about this nomination.		
Betsy Smidinger	Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Ecosystem Protection and Remediation, Region 8	303-312-6231

Individual Nominee	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Mike Cirian</div> <p><i>List exactly as it should be shown on all award materials.</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">EPA Region 8 1595 Wynkoop Street Superfund Remedial Program, EPR-SR Denver, Colorado 80202</div>

Commented [ZD1]: Stan- is this how we've put Mike on recent awards or does he want his full name? Michael Cirian?

Nominee Team Name or Site Name (if applicable)	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Team Name</div> <p><i>List exactly as it should be shown on all award materials.</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Site Name</div>

Team Nominees – Limited to 20 team members.

Name <i>List exactly as it should be shown on all award materials.</i>	EPA Region, Office, and Mail code or Non-EPA Organization and Postal Address
1. Mike Cirian	Region 8 EPA, EPR-SR, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202
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Nomination for a National Notable Achievement Award

Award Citation – Write a 25-word citation for this nomination. This will be used for the award booklet.

For Outstanding Commitment to Ensuring Continuous Progress and Completion of Complex Superfund Sites, Leading Inter-Governmental Teams, and Serving as a Mentor for His Colleagues.

Supplementary work product or plan attached (if applicable)

Name of Item

Nomination for a National Notable Achievement Award

Region 8 proudly nominates Mike Cirian for the Remedial Project Manager of the Year Award for his outstanding vision, initiative and dedication in leading complex Superfund cleanups. Mike is highly skilled in building effective partnerships with federal agencies and state partners on complex mining and residential cleanup sites. His work has used a persistent and efficient approach to cleanup highly contentious and scrutinized cleanups in Montana and Colorado.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLANNING—Mike excels at establishing goals, fostering consensus among stakeholders, and creating an efficient path forward. His ability to foster open communication with the team helped maintained a high level of trust with all parties throughout the project. He is highly creative in tapping the flexibility afforded by CERCLA, relying upon both removal and remedial tools to hasten cleanups.

Residential cleanups demanded urgent attention that could not wait until the remedial process was completed at the Libby Asbestos Site, one of the nation's most challenging Superfund cleanups. With a background in construction, Mike arrived in Libby in 2005—a place where he works and lives—to be the field lead and on-site project manager for the Libby cleanup. 14 years later, cleanups for residential and commercial properties have been completed (includes cleanup of over 2,270 properties and investigations of almost 6,000 properties). Underscoring all these project achievements was Mike's emphasis on safety. Throughout the project, Mike wanted to make sure every project team member went home to their family and friends each and every day. Mike supported a pro-active health and safety program in which all workers had a voice in continuous improvement and encouraged a teamwork approach in identifying and addressing hazards at each jobsite. At the end of the project, the contractors clocked over one million hours without a lost time incident winning awards from the US Army Corps of Engineers, two Montana Governor's safety awards and several National Safety Council awards. These milestones were accomplished because of Mike's vision for a safe working environment on the project.

All of these achievements were a result of Mike's strong leadership. Mike has a collaborative leadership style where he always emphasizes strong communication within a team. This was often illustrated during his weekly team update meetings and his communication stories that emphasized team trust, lessons learned, or simply reminders of how we can all improve on the small things that can have positive impacts to the team and project. While he worked with contractor management to establish annual goals, create work plans to meet project objectives, and set clear expectations, he also relied on his team to help him make the best decisions possible. Mike always wanted to make sure he had the details and current information to make an informed decision. He is always open to listening to different recommendations to solve a problem. Mike appreciated and considered different viewpoints from his contractor team and provided explanation on his final decisions if they differed from others. His leadership style has proven to be highly effective and successful given the many accomplishments achieved on the project.

MIKE CIRIAN

ADVANCING EPA'S MISSION THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN REMEDIAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A 14-year veteran of EPA, Mike:

- Demonstrates strong commitment to ensure continual progress and completion of complex residential and commercial cleanups
- Leads inter-governmental teams with state and federal partners
- Shares his expertise with colleagues as a mentor

Mike epitomizes the qualities of an outstanding RPM including exemplary project management and community outreach.

Nomination for a National Notable Achievement Award

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH – Mike is a tireless advocate for communities impacted by legacy mining or industrial contamination. Stakeholders appreciate his commitment to keeping them engaged and involved in Superfund cleanup efforts. Mike always kept an open-door policy at the EPA Information Center in Libby, Montana for the community to come in and voice questions and concerns. Mike helped to develop the Voluntary Recruitment Program (VRP) which was designed to reach out to residents and business owners who had not yet participated in the cleanup process. In addition to successfully managing his day-to-day project responsibilities, he has also been an active member in the community by volunteering and coaching for local youth sports teams. Mike earned the trust of the community which has helped this project achieve an extremely high participation rate. Over 96% of the 8,100-plus property owners have participated in the investigation and cleanup activities. This success rate of participating will help minimize the chances of encountering asbestos source materials long after EPA has left the community—a tribute to Mike's dedication to the project and community.

COMPLEX COORDINATION AND NEGOTIATION – Mike has a superb record in taking on vexing technical and community outreach challenges, and successfully crafting solutions. While he has tackled his share of complex negotiations with potentially responsible parties (PRPs), Mike's work has extended far beyond typical government cleanup work. One of Mike's signature achievements was developing the Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) program for the Libby site. When Mike arrived on the scene, he recognized a need in the community for providing quick-response assistance to residents and businesses who encountered potentially asbestos-containing vermiculite during renovation activities or other unplanned events. This pilot program provided resources 24-hours a day to the community to help owners identify vermiculite sources, cleanup and stabilize the area, and coordinate larger cleanup activities as needed. This successful pilot program eventually evolved to the current Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program (ARP). This program has helped hundreds of residents get the assistance and information in a timely manner to keep their projects on schedule or minimize standby time during emergency release situations. He has successfully managed the Libby Asbestos Site under intense public and congressional scrutiny.

At the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) site, Mike has been overseeing PRP conduct of an RI/FS under an Administrative Order on Consent filed in November 2015. Due to the proximity of the site to Glacier National Park, it has received significant attention from EPA Headquarters and state and federal elected officials. Mike has been coordinating closely with the community of Columbia Falls on the investigation and cleanup and responding to routine inquiries from congressional staff.

EXCEPTIONAL TEAM EFFORTS – Mike is known for building cohesive inter-governmental teams to tackle the most difficult challenges associated with cleanups. He is outstanding in inspiring his teams and recognizing the work of others. Mike is quick to celebrate others' successes as his team wraps up cleanup work on many operable units of the Libby Asbestos Site. As a veteran RPM, Mike brings expertise, a generous and caring spirit, and unequalled dedication to the Agency's Superfund work. Mike's work on the Libby Asbestos and CFAC cleanups is illustrative of his capacity to proactively manage long-term remedial processes and achieve results. Chief among Mike's RPM skills is his ability to establish a sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm among team members. For example, at the Libby Asbestos Site, Mike led another federal government agency, USACE, and inspired their contractors. He worked with the combined local, state and federal team to chart a course that allowed the cleanup work to continue as a removal action until the necessary risk assessment science was developed to turn the cleanup into a remedial action. This was essential to ensuring continual progress on this complex and multi-faceted Superfund project. Mike has also contributed to the regional Superfund programs as a mentor. Region 8 RPMs rely on his

knowledge of construction management. Mike has actively mentors team members and other colleagues. Additionally, Mike has assisted with Remedial Action Framework (RAF) training by giving advice on construction management training.

Commented [ZD2]: Stan- is this true? Do you want to elaborate?

FLATHEAD
BEACON



2020-2021 BEACON Awardee: Mike L. Langer, Jr. (2020-2021)

Beacon & President

The Superfund Sentinel

Mike Langer has been a Superfund Sentinel for 10 years. He is the only person in the world who has been a Superfund Sentinel for 10 years. He is the only person in the world who has been a Superfund Sentinel for 10 years.

